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A/53/972
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21 May 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 39, 40 and 84
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 11 May 1999 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues unabated with its illegal actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory. These illegal actions aim at the judaization of the city and at the expansion of Israeli colonization of the Palestinian territory. Yesterday, on 10 May 1999, the Israeli Government issued a "closure order" for three offices in the Orient House in East Jerusalem. The implementation of this order was delayed, however, only as a result of a petition by an Israeli group to the Israeli High Court, which, under international law, has no jurisdiction over occupied Jerusalem.

This attempted closure was coupled with further steps by the Israeli Government, also yesterday, to funnel in additional financial resources for settlement activity in Jerusalem. As part of this scheme, the goal of which is to transfer even more Israeli citizens to occupied Jerusalem, the Israeli Government pledged to provide each settler who moved into a new neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem with US$ 5,000. Such illegal actions are not limited to Jerusalem alone; settlement activities continue in several locations throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, with the expansion of already existing settlements and the creation of new ones.

All of the above-mentioned actions and policies, on the part of the Israeli Government, represent serious breeches of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as flagrant violations of numerous Security Council and other United

Nations resolutions. They also undermine the fragile peace process and aim to prevent the reaching of a just and comprehensive peace.

The Security Council dealt with illegal Israeli actions related to Jerusalem only last July, when it issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/1998/21). It is clear, however, that Israel, the occupying Power, holds only contempt and disregard for that and for many other positions of the Council. We believe that it is highly incumbent on the Security Council to reconsider the situation and ensure that illegal Israeli actions in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory be ceased and reversed.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 40 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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S/1999/598
21 May 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 May 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 20 May 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 30 April and 3, 7, 10 and 11 May 1999 (A/53/933-S/1999/499, A/53/934-S/1999/502, A/53/949-S/1999/532, A/53/953-S/1999/537 and A/53/956-S/1999/545, respectively), addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar unfounded charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 15 April 1999 (A/53/914-S/1999/440, annex). I would like to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The Greek Cypriot administration keeps making the above-mentioned allegations in order to divert attention from its ongoing policy of escalation on the island. Military build-up in South Cyprus has reached unprecedented levels. According to estimated military expenditures, in 1999 the Greek Cypriot administration will spend 5.8 per cent of the gross domestic product on armaments. This figure is twice as large as the average for the 15 members of the European Union (Greek Cypriot daily Filelefttheros of 9-10 May 1999).

Furthermore, it has been observed that acts of provocation by Greek Cypriot National Guard soldiers along the borders have increased sharply over recent months. At various locations, Greek Cypriot soldiers practically on a daily basis have been pointing weapons and throwing stones at Turkish Cypriot sentries, as well as directing verbal attacks and provocations. Turkish Cypriot military personnel have been monitoring the situation with calmness, patience and prudence. Our authorities have lodged necessary protests with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, in the hope that immediate effective measures will be taken to stop such provocative actions by the Greek Cypriot side.

The continuing militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, as well as the acts of provocation and hostility, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. My Government expects that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot leadership to abandon its provocative policies that are not conducive to reducing tension and promoting progress towards reconciliation between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus